

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE **JUN 16 2006**

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| In re Patent Application of |) | |
| |) | |
| Toshihiro HANADA |) | Group Art Unit: Unassigned |
| |) | |
| Application No.: Unassigned |) | Examiner: Unassigned |
| |) | |
| Filed: June 16, 2006 |) | Confirmation No.: Unassigned |
| |) | |
| For: VALVE |) | |

FIRST INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, the accompanying information is being submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, a copy of each of the documents cited is enclosed. However, copies of the listed U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications are not enclosed since it is no longer required according to the July 11, 2003 waiver of the requirement for copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications in national patent applications filed after June 30, 2003 and international applications entering the national stage under 35 U.S.C. § 371 after June 30, 2003.

Also enclosed is a copy of the International Search Report in connection with the corresponding International application.


To assist the Examiner, the documents are listed on the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that an Examiner initialed copy of this form be returned to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date June 16, 2006

By:



Christopher L. North, Ph.D.
Registration No. 50,433

P.O. Box 1404
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1404
(703) 836-6620

Substitute for form 1449A/PTO- & 1449B/PTO

**FIRST
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

1

Complete if Known

Application Number

Unassigned

Filing Date

April 10, 2006

First Named Inventor

Hiroki Yamada et al.

Examiner Name

Unassigned

Attorney Docket Number

1001560-000594

104583145

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Document Number | Kind Code (if known) | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Issue/Publication Date (MM-DD-YYYY) |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| | 2003/0178504 | A1 | FUKANO et al. | 09-25-2003 |
| | 6,000,629 | A | TAMURA et al. | 12-14-1999 |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Document Number | Kind Code (if known) | Country | Date of Publication (MM-DD-YYYY) | STATUS | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------|------|----------|---------------|
| | | | | | Translation | Partial Translation | Eng. Lang. Summary | Search Report | IPER | Abstract | Cited in Spec |
| | 7-51368 | | Japan | 02-28-1995 | | | | X | | X | |
| | 2002-161901 | | Japan | 06-07-2002 | | | | X | | X | |
| | 2002-306549 | | Japan | 10-22-2002 | | | | X | | X | |
| | 10-281318 | | Japan | 10-23-1998 | | | | X | | X | |
| | 2 324 133 | A | GB | 10-14-1998 | | | | X | | | |
| | 198 11 191 | A1 | DE | 10-22-1998 | | | | X | | | |
| | 8-266623 | | Japan | 10-15-1996 | | | | X | | X | |
| | 9-250644 | | Japan | 09-22-1997 | | | | X | | X | |
| | 2003-278927 | A | Japan | 10-02-2003 | | | | X | | X | X |
| | 2003-254459 | A | Japan | 09-10-2003 | | | | X | | X | X |
| | 103 09 112 | A1 | DE | 10-23-2003 | | | | X | | | |

NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published. |
|-------------------|---|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|--|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. § 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.